BROOKS PENINSULA
RECREATION AREA
INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

BC PARKS

SOUTH COAST REGION

OCTOBER, 1991

BROOKS PENINSULA RECREATION AREA

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

October, 1991

Recommended: _____ Date: 91-10-29
District Manager
Strathcona District

Approved: _____ Date: Feb 26/92
Assistant Deputy Minister

105-06642/

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BROOKS PENINSULA RECREATION AREA
INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

I BACKGROUND

A. Setting

A.1 Designation: O.I.C. #2210/86, approved December 10, 1986.

A.2 Location: on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, about 65 kilometres south of Cape Scott. Bounded by Brooks Bay on the north and Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve on the south, this rectangular peninsula juts out 14 kilometres into the Pacific Ocean. Exposed windswept beaches rise dramatically from the sea. Deeply incised cirques and steep Ushaped valleys are topped off by the jagged and angular summits of the Refugium Range, the central spine of the peninsula.

A.3 Solander Island Ecological Reserve, located off Cape Cook, was established to protect a large sea bird colony. Klaskish River Ecological Reserve, located northeast of Brooks Peninsula, represents one of the few remaining undisturbed estuaries on Vancouver Island. Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve, south of Brooks Peninsula, protects prime sea otter and native oyster populations.

A.4 Area: 28,780 hectares

A.5 Access: limited to marine or air access only. Marine access requires boaters and kayakers to travel south from Winter Harbour or north from Kyuquot across exposed seas. Air access is not encouraged and recent logging operations to the northeast have created roads that come within a few kilometres of the recreation area boundary.

B. Natural and Cultural Resource Features

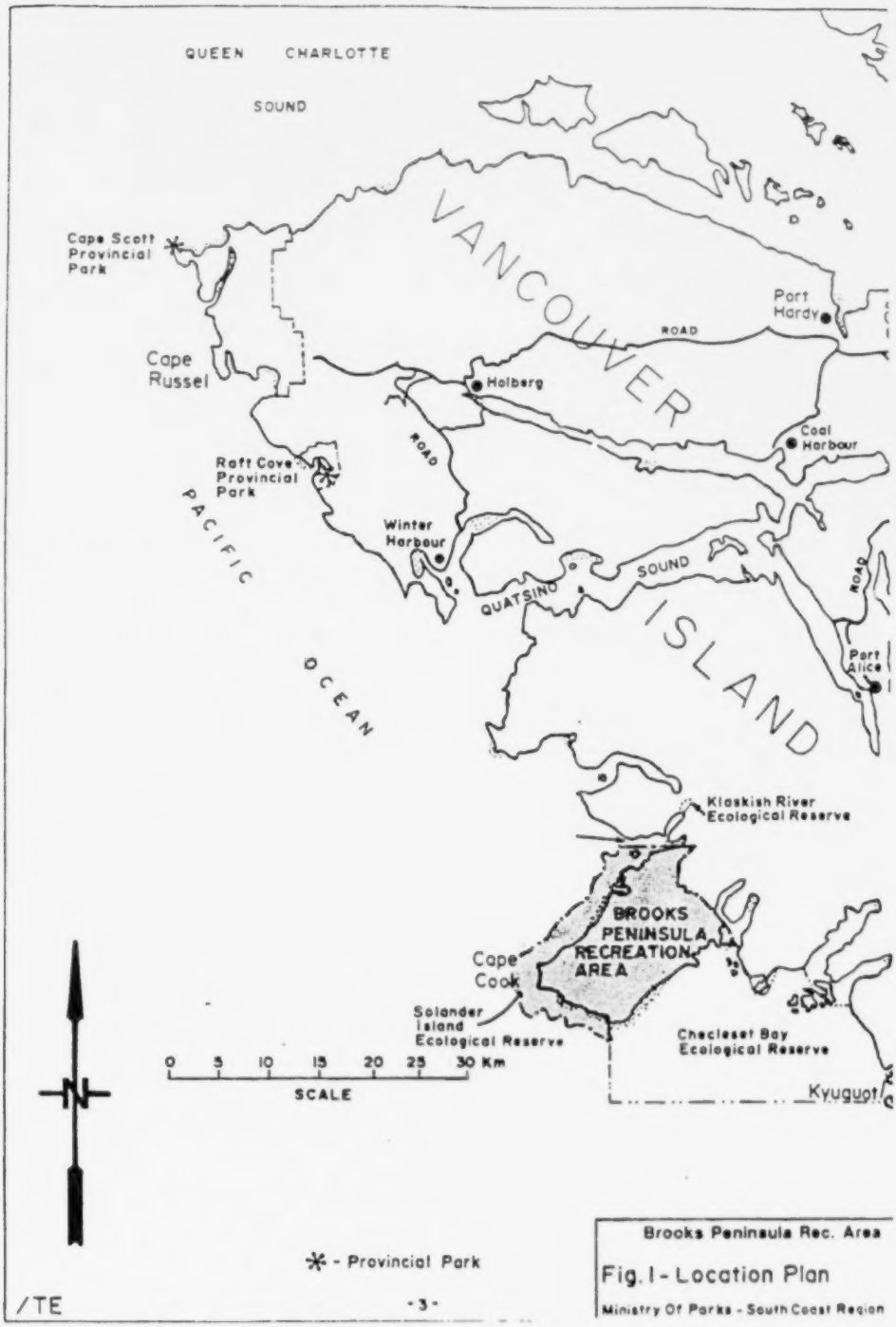
B.1 Brooks Peninsula falls within the Vancouver Island Mountains of the Insular Mountains Physiographic Unit and is representative of the West Vancouver Island Mountains regional landscape. This blocky peninsula is one of those rare locations known as "glacial refugia."

B.2 Many unique and special plant species are found on Brooks Peninsula because part of the peninsula was free of ice during the last glaciation. These plants also result from the peninsula's relative isolation and severe weather conditions. The recreation area lies within an extremely wet maritime subzone of the coastal western hemlock biogeoclimatic zone. Western red-cedar, western hemlock, shore pine, Sitka spruce, amabilis fir, mountain hemlock, yellow-cedar and western yew are some of the coniferous species present. Mountain hemlock and yellow-cedar are high elevation species. Special locations, such as bogs, wetlands and the high ridges above timberline not affected by the last glaciation and where alpine heath prevails, are home to a fair number of unusual or rare plant species, some of which occur in only a few places in British Columbia. Gnarled and stunted vegetation, Krummholz scrub forests and unique aquatic/bog vegetation make this an interesting area for plant study.

B.3 The landscape features a central ridge that gradually rises from sea level eastward to jagged, angular peaks reaching over 900 metres.

B.4 The rugged shoreline is characterized with steep, forested cliffs which plunge into the ocean; numerous small, sandy pocket beaches and extensive rocky headlands. Sea lions, sea otters, and harbour seals enjoy these rocky headlands and open surf. The most significant location for both sea lions and sea birds appears to be Solander Island, an ecological reserve.

B.5 The peaks and ridges above 600 metres were likely untouched by glacial periods over the last 25,000 years, resulting in the existence of rare and unique plant species.


QUEEN CHARLOTTE
SOUND
VANCOUVER
ISLAND
PACIFIC
OCEAN
Cape Scott Provincial Park
Cape Russel
Port Hardy
ROAD
Holberg
Coal Harbour
Raft Cove Provincial Park
Winter Harbour
QUATSINO
SOUND
Port Alice
Klaskish River Ecological Reserve
BROOKS PENINSULA RECREATION AREA
Cape Cook
Solander Island Ecological Reserve
Checleset Bay Ecological Reserve
Kyuquot
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Km
SCALE
* - Provincial Park
Brooks Peninsula Rec. Area
Fig. 1 - Location Plan
Ministry Of Parks - South Coast Region

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B.6 Brooks Peninsula offers outstanding wilderness qualities. The area's remote location, rugged terrain and poor quality timber has resulted in it remaining virtually untouched by modern man.

B.7 Salt marshes, lagoons, bogs and bare, windswept ridges are special features found on Brooks Peninsula.

B.8 There are 12 recorded archaeological sites on the peninsula which include general activity sites, burial sites and historic places. One reserve, Quineex I.R. 8, is located on the southwest side of Brooks Peninsula. There are no resident native inhabitants and the area was only sporadically visited by both white and native peoples due to location and an inhospitable climate.

C. Encumbrances

C.1 O.I.C. 902/87 ***No Staking Reserve*** over the entire recreation area expired August 31, 1988. Mineral exploration on Brooks Peninsula may take place as per Section 19 of the *Mineral Tenure Act* which permits staking over a ten year period commencing November 27, 1990. Following this period a review of mineral exploration activities will assist in determining the future direction and possible park status for Brooks Peninsula.

C.2 Non-active mink traplines are recorded within Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area.

C.3 B.C. Tel has a transmitter tower and the Pacific Geoscience Centre recently established a seismic monitoring device on Brooks Peninsula.

C.4 R.U.P. 2442-Westcoast Expeditions Educational Tours

C.5 MacMillan Bloedel has a 231 hectare parcel of land (TL 1875) located in the northern corner of the recreation area adjacent to Canoe Lake.

C.6 Quineex I.R. 8 is located at the southwest corner of Brooks Peninsula north of Clerke Point.

D. Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

D.1 Brooks Peninsula offers challenging recreation opportunities including sheltered moorage for boaters, kayakers and ocean canoeists.

D.2 Visitors to the peninsula often participate in primitive upland camping, nature appreciation and shoreline hiking.

D.3 Difficult access has limited visitation to mainly marine adventurers. Heavy understorey and steep terrain have restricted these visitors to exploring the rugged shoreline and bay areas.

D.4 Air access is not encouraged although helicopters fly B.C. Tel staff in regularly to maintain their transmitter device. Nature/scientific study on the geological and botanical features of the peninsula also utilizes helicopter service in order to access the more interesting areas.

D.5 Johnson Lagoon, on the southeastern side of Brooks Peninsula and at the eastern end of Checleset Bay, has an interesting reversing tidal rapids at its narrow entrance.

D.6. It is recommended that a **No Hunting** policy be adopted for the entire Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area. Wildlife includes black-tailed deer, summer-ranging elk, black bears, wolves, marten, river otters, mink, raccoon and mice. Small lakes contain rainbow and cutthroat trout and the surrounding salt waters contain a variety of sea life. Recreational fishermen will find fishing opportunities for chinook, sockeye, chum, coho and pink salmon.

E. Current Recreation Use

E.1 Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area provides a variety of remote wilderness opportunities for boaters. It complements other major provincial and national parks on the west coast of Vancouver Island including Cape Scott and Pacific Rim.

E.2 Raft Cove, a newly established Class 'A' Provincial Park in 1988, will provide automobile access to the Pacific coast and offer a vehicular campground. This park is located between Brooks Peninsula and Cape Scott with road access from Port Hardy via Holberg.

E.3 There is little available data on the existing use levels of Brooks Peninsula. Current use is relatively low due to the area's isolation and unfavourable climate. It is estimated that over 200 boaters visited Brooks Peninsula in 1989.

E.4 It is anticipated that visitation will increase as Brooks Peninsula becomes recognized as a destination and stop-over point for recreational boaters and ocean kayakers. Public awareness of this area has increased from articles described in both boating magazines and cruising guides and through word of mouth.

II PROVINCIAL PARK SYSTEM CONTEXT

A. Conservation Role

A. 1 Preserves the peninsula's pristine wilderness landscape which contains representative natural features of the West Vancouver Island Mountains regional landscape and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone.

A.2 Provides habitat for a variety of marine/land plant and animal life.

A3 Conserves archaeological and ecological values.

A.4 Protects the peninsula's nationally significant coastal glacial refugium which contains disjunctly distributed and endemic biota.*

A.5 Offers unparalleled opportunity for scientific study of unique geologic formations and plant communities. The ministry will encourage scientific research with other agencies and educational institutions on the outstanding natural features, cultural history and unique plant species associated with this area.

* Definitions:
disjunctly - widely separated from similar species;
endemic - native or confined naturally to a given region.

B. Recreation Role

B.1 Regional Context - located on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island and south of Quatsino Sound, Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area is a magnificent wilderness area that is accessible only by boat or plane. The two communities nearest to Brooks Peninsula are Winter Harbour and Kyuquot. Plane and boat charters are available from these small towns as well as food, general supplies and accommodation. There is road access to Winter Harbour and new logging roads are being built from Port Alice to Klaskish Inlet, north of the recreation area boundary. The northern end of Vancouver Island is not heavily populated but is slowly growing as road access improves. The main activities for area residents are logging and fishing, although tourism is becoming increasingly important to the local economy.

B.2 The role of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks in the northern portion of Vancouver Island is to provide camping, hiking, boating and day use opportunities in a wilderness setting. These parks and recreation area help to represent and preserve the Nahwitti Lowland and West Vancouver Island Mountains regional landscapes respectively.

B.3 Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area is found within the Nootka Planning Unit of the Vancouver Island Sub-Region. The prime functions of this unit which consists of the west half of Vancouver Island extending from Port San Juan north to Lawn Point are to: provide sheltered marine accessible park and recreation opportunities; provide lake and river corridor recreation opportunities; provide representation of the natural regions; and promote broader visitor use. To further the recreational opportunities of the area, a number of park proposals have been identified, including Battle Bay and Big Bunsby Island.

B.4 In addition to Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area, Cape Scott and Raft Cove Provincial Parks offer a variety of recreational experiences for local residents and area visitors.

B.5 Information - the recreation area provides wilderness boating, kayaking, nature interpretation and hiking opportunities and an information strategy will focus on providing boaters, outdoor groups and nature clubs information on Brooks Peninsula. Park information including access, activities, facilities, regulations and special features will be provided through the zone office at Miracle Beach Provincial Park, general park brochures and regional/headquarters ministry staff.

III RECREATION AREA ZONING

Zoning is a planning procedure used to organize a park into comprehensive land and water units or zones based upon uniform and consistent management objectives. Since they reflect the intended land use, level of management and development for each zone, they also determine the levels of human activity to be accommodated.

Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area is divided into three zones: Wilderness Recreation Zone: Wilderness Conservation Zone; and Special Feature Zone (Figure 2).

A. Wilderness Recreation Zone

Purpose: to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment.

Areas: Klaskish Anchorage and Jacobson Point along with their associated uplands will be included in this zone, as well as the foreshore within the recreation area.

B. Wilderness Conservation Zone

Purpose: to protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape while providing unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorized activities will be allowed.

Areas: With the exception of some special feature areas, i.e., archaeological sites and excluding the Wilderness Recreation Zone, most of the interior of Brooks Peninsula falls within this zone.

C. Special Feature Zone

Purpose: to protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility or heritage value.

Areas:

- windswept ridge that supports interesting dwarfed vegetation due to harsh weather conditions
- salt marshes and bogs on the northwest side of the peninsula (review 1980 Brooks Peninsula ecological reserve proposal to identify key sites)
- Cape Cook lagoon and sandy spit
- 12 archaeological sites located on the peninsula which are classed as special features

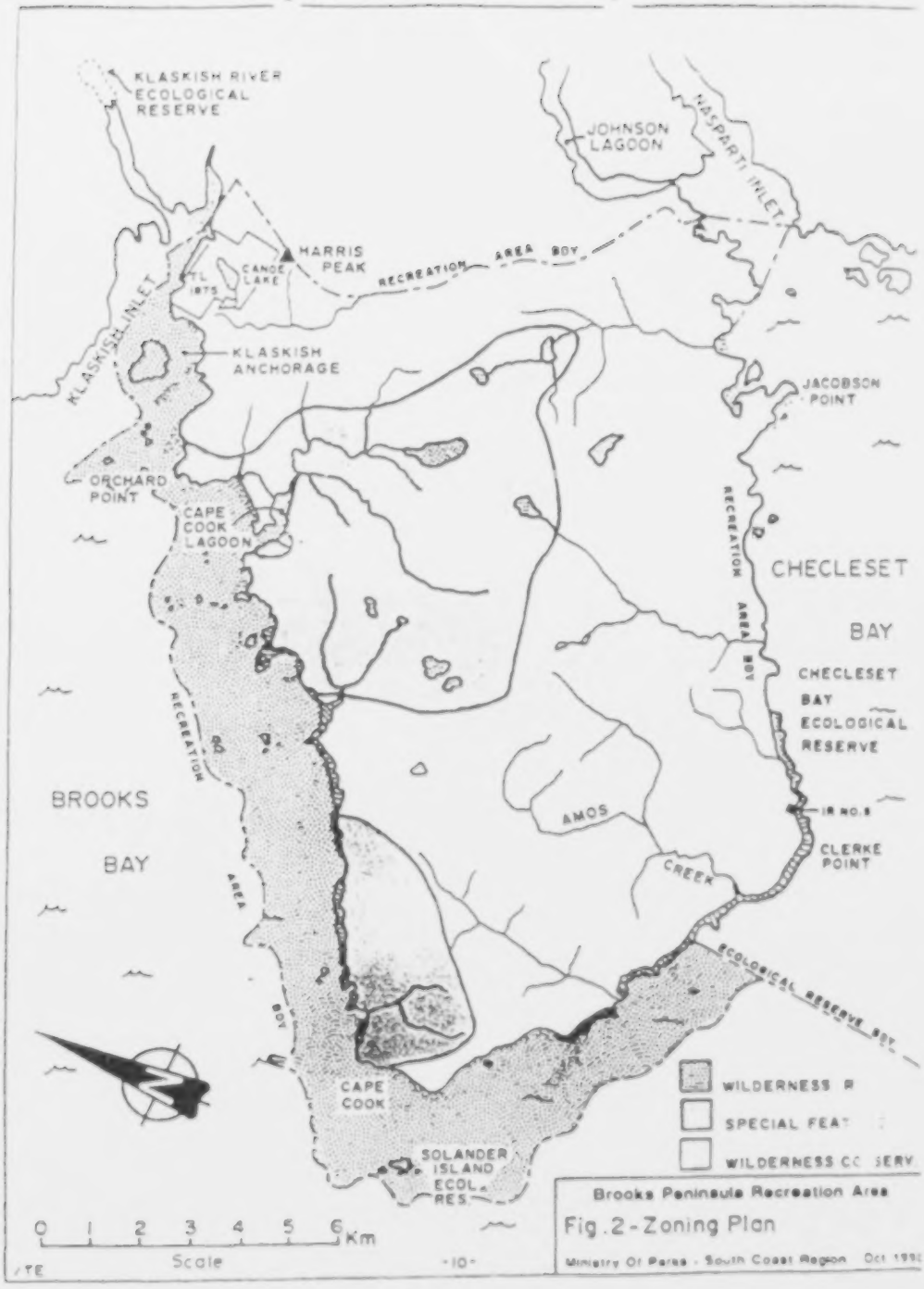
IV NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A. Land

A.1 Objectives:

To reclassify the entire Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area to Class 'A' Park status following mineral evaluation and removal of previous land commitments.

To assess and evaluate any inholdings and the land adjacent to the eastern boundary of Brooks Peninsula which was identified as a large study area in Parks Plan 90 working map.


KLASKISH RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
JOHNSON LAGOON
NASPARTI INLET
HARRIS PEAK
RECREATION AREA BDY
EL 1875
CANOE LAKE
KLASKISH INLET
KLASKISH ANCHORAGE
JACOBSON POINT
ORCHARD POINT
CAPE COOK LAGOON
CHECLESET BAY
CHECLESET BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
BROOKS BAY
AMOS CREEK
IR NO.8
CLERKE POINT
CAPE COOK
SOLANDER ISLAND ECOL. RES.
WILDERNESS R
SPECIAL FEAT
WILDERNESS CO SERV
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Km
Scale
Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area
Fig. 2 - Zoning Plan
Ministry Of Parks - South Coast Region Oct 199

A.2 Management Actions:

- In keeping with the *Mineral Tenure Act*, (Section 19) carefully controlled private sector claim-staking and exploration will be allowed for a ten year period commencing November 27, 1990 on Brooks Peninsula. After this evaluation period, the recreation area may then be considered for Class 'A' park designation.

- At the present time, there are no mineral claims and it is recommended that a ***No Staking Reserve*** be placed over areas identified within the Special Features Zone.

- It is recommended that existing traplines be reviewed with the intent that they be purchased or phased out over time.

- Direct discussion with local people (Quineex I.R.8), mineral claim holders and other land users will help to provide them with an understanding of the purpose and objectives for the recreation area.

- A number of watersheds to the east of the recreation area have been identified for their conservation potential. These areas should be evaluated through the ongoing Ministry of Forests' studies for their provincial significance and value relative to the recreation area.

- In addition, MacMillan Bloedel inholding T.L. 1875, located adjacent to Canoe Lake, should be acquired.

- Jacobson Bay, to the east of Jacobson Point, is not within either the recreation area or the ecological reserve. This anomaly should be added to the recreation area.

B. Vegetation

B.1 Objectives:

To conserve and preserve the existing unique natural vegetation found on Brooks Peninsula. Special attention will be given to the complete protection of the disjunctly distributed, rare and endemic plant species.

To retain the forest cover.

To maintain habitat critical to the major wildlife species.

B.2 Management Actions:

- In order to preserve the recreation area's vegetation including sub alpine plants, bogs, Sitka spruce, shore pine, stunted forests and a variety of Coastal Western Hemlock trees, shrubs and grasses, a vegetation management plan will be prepared and unique vegetation features will be placed in the Special Features Zone to ensure full management protection.

- The role of fire, insects and disease will also be addressed in the vegetation management plan.

- BC Parks will also determine if ecological reserve status is required to achieve the full protection of flora within the Special Feature Zone.

C. Fish and Wildlife

C.1 Objective:

To conserve the ecosystem by protecting healthy populations of all resident and transient wildlife.

To pursue a policy of ***non-extraction*** *of the natural fish and wildlife resources found on Brooks Peninsula.*

C.2 Management Actions:

- BC Parks will undertake further wildlife inventory to augment existing data collected.

- A Wildlife Management Plan for Brooks Peninsula will be produced once sufficient data is gathered and analyzed.

- B.C. Parks will seek to close the entire Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area to hunting and fresh water fishing.

D. Outdoor Recreation Features and Visual Resources

D.1 Objective:

To protect the scenic resources associated with Brooks Peninsula which include a rugged westcoast marine coastline, jagged peaks, lagoon and an interesting windswept ridge.

D.2 Management Actions:

- The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks will, through zoning and cooperative management, protect the visual resources found within and contiguous to Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area.
- Mineral exploration/development will come under strict guidelines as stated in the protocol agreement with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for recreation areas.
- The view shed located on the north side of Klaskish Anchorage will be considered for its scenic values through inter-ministry cooperation with the Ministry of Forests.

E. Cultural Resources

E.1 Objectives:

To protect archaeological and historical resources within the recreation area.

To provide information on these resources wherever possible.

E.2 Management Actions:

- Consultation with Archaeology, Ministry of Tourism and Culture and local Indian bands to identify those archaeological resources that require complete protection will be undertaken. Use will be directed away from any sites that are particularly sensitive.

V VISITOR SERVICES

The visitor services concept for Brooks Peninsula is to provide a destination boating wilderness area. Camping, fishing, viewing, hiking and nature appreciation will be allowed in appropriate locations. Only basic wilderness campsites and information signing will be provided for park visitors. Figure 3 shows the development plan for the recreation area.

A. Recreation Opportunities

A.1 Objective:

To provide limited wilderness-oriented water and land-based recreation activities.

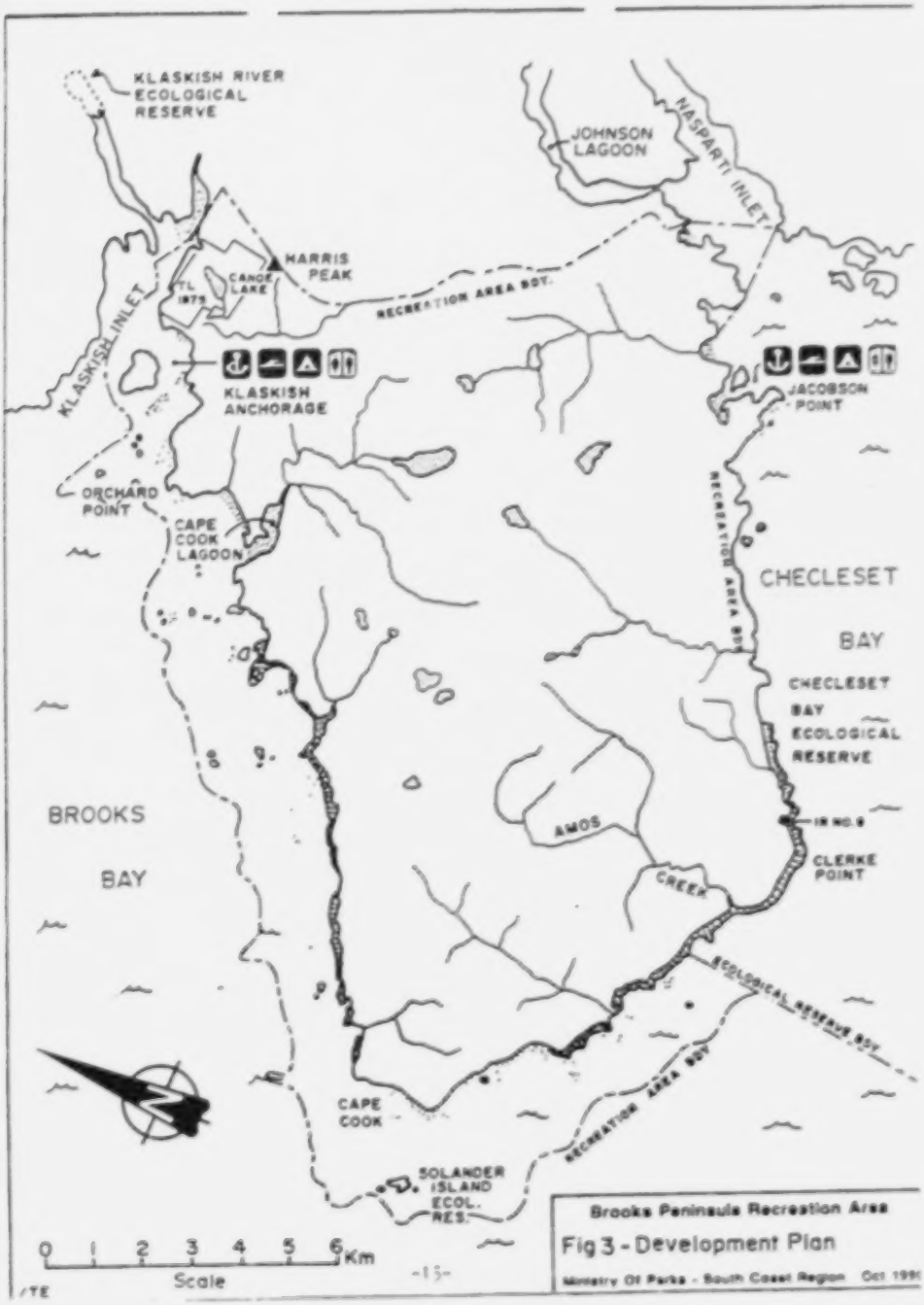
These recreation opportunities will be accessible only by water or limited air transportation to protect the Recreation Area's wilderness values. BC Parks will monitor private aircraft access. Depending on the volume and impact of these aircraft, BC Parks will consider designating specific sites (eg. Klaskish Anchorage) for aircraft landings and restricting access through Federal government regulations. Commercial operators, such as B.C. Tel, and other non-commercial agencies requiring access will be managed by resource use permit to minimize resource impacts and impairment of the wilderness experience.

(a) Wilderness Recreation Zone Objectives:

This zone is primarily intended to provide wilderness camping and boating opportunities as well as hiking, nature appreciation and other related activities. Wilderness camping development will be centred around Klaskish Anchorage and Jacobson Bay.

BC Parks will monitor private aircraft access within this zone. In addition, B.C. Tel and scientific/education research groups will be issued resource use permits to allow access to their facilities and specific sites within this zone.

Boating/Ocean Kayaking/Canoeing - BC Parks will encourage a variety of recreational boating use along the interesting shoreline and bays at Brooks Peninsula. Two primary anchorages are found on either side of the peninsula at Klaskish Anchorage and Jacobson Point.


KLASKISH RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
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CLERKE POINT
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE BDY.
CAPE COOK
SOLANDER ISLAND ECOL. RES.
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Km
Scale
Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area
Fig 3 - Development Plan
Ministry Of Parks - South Coast Region Oct 1991

Camping - Brooks Peninsula offers limited upland camping opportunities due to the area's rugged terrain and dense understorey. Formalized wilderness campsites, information signs and sanitary facilities will be located at Klaskish Anchorage. BC Parks will ensure that any future camping development will have minimal vegetation disturbance so as to preserve the area's natural wilderness character.

(b) Wilderness Conservation Zone Objectives:

This zone will protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape while providing unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities. Most of the interior of Brooks Peninsula falls within this zone where limited backcountry camping and hiking may occur.

B. Management Services

B.1 Objectives:

To maintain a management presence based out of the Miracle zone office at Miracle Beach Provincial Park.

To record during the summer months visitation and trends in user demand.

To encourage safe boating and wilderness practices.

To promote safe marine access to Brooks Peninsula while monitoring air access.

B.2 Management Actions:

- Periodic visitor surveys will be conducted to determine demographics, purpose/length of trip and facility requirements.
- Park information and general safety tips will be provided to the boating public.
- Promotion of marine access through park brochures, yachting magazines, etc., and provision of public information on sheltered anchorages, facilities/opportunities and typical weather conditions will be undertaken.
- Monitor private aircraft access to the Recreation Area and regulate commercial and research aircraft access to specified sites through resource use permit or special authority.

- Carry out periodic ranger patrols of the recreation area to monitor visitor use and resource management issues.

C. Promotion and Information Program

C.1 Objective:

To encourage use of the recreation area compatible with its wilderness role and to provide visitors with basic information.

C.2 Management Actions:

Promotion - will be limited to park and marine brochures and ministry maps. Brooks Peninsula receives public attention through a variety of boating magazines and cruising guides. The marketing strategy for Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area will be low key and focus on providing an unique wilderness marine destination in a natural setting for boaters and ocean kayakers/canoeists.

Information - the public will be provided with basic information about the area's recreation opportunities, as well as access, regulations, safety, and special features through the zone office at Miracle Beach Provincial Park, general park brochures and ministry staff. An information strategy will be directed towards recreational boaters, outdoor groups and nature clubs who require information on Brooks Peninsula. Nearby communities will also provide information and necessary supplies for recreationists who wish to visit the area.

VI INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

For the most part, Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area will remain as a remote wilderness area with only minimal facility development. Continued preservation and management of its unique resources will be a top priority. In addition, liaison with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will be required so as to closely monitor any mineral activity within the Recreation Area.

A closer review of Brooks Peninsula will assist in future recreation zoning and land status. Centre portions of the peninsula are possible candidates for Nature Conservancy Area or Ecological Reserve status.

Phase I

- Pre-existing commercial operators or land tenures will be placed under permit.
- Develop wilderness campsites and basic sanitary/information facilities at Klaskish Anchorage and Jacobson Point.
- Improve knowledge of the wildlife, vegetation and cultural resources.
- Determine if ecological reserve status is required to achieve full protection of flora within the Special Feature Zone.
- Place *a* ***No Staking Mineral Reserve*** over the Special Feature Zone.
- Propose that the entire Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area be closed to hunting and fresh water fishing.
- Review eastern boundary of Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area in relation to conservation proposals.
- Acquire MacMillan Bloedel inholding (TL 1875) - 231 hectare parcel located adjacent to Canoe Lake.
- Review scenic values adjacent to the Klaskish Anchorage with the Ministry of Forests.
- Monitor impacts by private aircraft access to the Brooks Peninsula Recreation Area.

Phase II

- Following inventory assessment prepare Vegetation Management Plan and Wildlife Management Plan.
- Acquire and/or phase out any existing traplines found on Brooks Peninsula.
- Prepare a master plan with public involvement.